

Applic. No.: 10/623,815

Amdt. Dated December 23, 2005

Reply to Office action of October 28, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-13 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 4 has been previously been cancelled.

In the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103" on pages 2-7 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3 and 5-13 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Shiga (US 5,416,660) in view of Chrysostomides et al. (US 5,646,434) and Takamoto et al. (US 5,079,612) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejection has been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion in the sentence bridging pages 7 and 8 of the Office action.

Since the Examiner has stated that the amendment would overcome the rejection as recited in this Office action, claim 1 is now believed to be patentable over the cited prior art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

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In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-13 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

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